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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: O/SO Support
Proposed Office for Information on
International Communism

25X1

PARTICIPANTS: [redacted]

Mr. Reber
Mr. Angleton

STAT

[redacted]

Mr. Stelle

1. Discussion began with an O/SO proposal that such a unit on international communism should be established. (See Memo to AD/IC, dated 7 February 1951.)

2. Mr. Stelle felt that we should try to improve coordination between existing agencies before resorting to setting up a new central shop. He doubted that there is much room between what the operational people will have to do for themselves anyway and what State is and should be doing.

STAT 3. [redacted] explained that he envisaged the new unit taking on much of the support now being provided within O/SO itself as well as considerable analysis and research that is not being done anywhere at the present time. He did not think it would infringe at all on the political province of State.

4. In trying to define what was needed beyond what State is already doing, it was pointed out that:

a. State does not get certain sensitive information--as from the FBI.

b. State does not have time to work on certain important aspects--such as to try to reconstruct the party apparatus.

STAT c. Someone should be actively relating information from [redacted]

d. It is doubtful if any but a central agency can achieve the degree of authority and confidence to enable it to perform this job.

5. Mr. Stelle suggested that someone with the full authority of the DCI should survey the field and try to determine:

a. How much information is there which is not being made available?

b. How much is it useful to do in this field in view of the limited supply of personnel?

6. On the more general question of O/SO support, Mr. Stelle stated that State can and will do the political and sociological part, with the military and atomic energy contributions. This he felt would have to be done in CIA.

*but cannot
put them
together*

7. It seemed to be generally agreed that there should be some kind of a "cut-out" in CIA who would be the contact man or coordinator between the ultimate consumer in O/SO and the contributing agencies. This "cut-out," however, should not try to prevent direct contact with the O/SO consumer where appropriate.

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8. [redacted] explained that in State there was also a need for an IAD officer between the CIA requester and the analyst. This, he said, was so because of the large volume of work and the many demands that would otherwise be levied directly on the analyst from all over the Government.